GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5582
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
STUDY OF CMRI ON BAGDIGI COAL MINE ACCIDENT
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mining Research Institute (CMRI), Dhanbad has made a study on the causes of Bagdigi Coal Mine Tragedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of coal mine workers in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a): No, Sir. The Central Mining Research Institute (CMRI), Dhanbad has not made any study about the above tragedy.

(b): Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

(c): The Government of India has appointed Justice Gurusharan Sharma, Judge High Court, Jharkhand, to hold an inquiry into accident in Bagdigi Colliery. It has also appointed Prof. Ravindranath, Professor of Mining Engineering, Benaras Hindu University and Shri Kamlesh Sahay, President, CCL Colliery Karamchari Sangh, Barkakhana as assessors.

(d): The following steps have been taken by Coal India Ltd., to ensure the safety of the coal mine workers:: -

1. Instructions have been issued in writing to all CGM/GM of the areas that coal extraction within 60 meters from water logged working in same seam or in overlying or underlying seams should be undertaken only with the approval by DGMS.The conditions as stipulated by DGMS will have to be followed strictly.

2. A committee consisting of senior officers have been constituted in each area, who will inspect the mines of the other area to ascertain the danger to the working districts and other workings of the mines due to inundation from surface as well as underground waters from the different areas of the same mine or of the neighbouring mines and also to ascertain danger of influx of noxious/ toxic gases as well as the fire damp into the working district of other workings either from the sealed off area of the same mine or of the other mines.

3. Old workings, isolations and fire stoppings are being inspected as per Coal Mines Regulation.

4. Check survey of all underground mines which are prone to water danger.

5. Great emphasis has been given for quality inspection of the mines.

6. Safety committee meeting at mine level had been made more effective.

7. To inculcate safety consciousness among workers, organising safety week, safety drives, publicity and propaganda on safety are being undertaken.

8. Extensive training programme has been arranged to train workers, supervisory staff and executives.

9. Each area General Manager holds a special safety meeting on last Friday of the month where they discuss only about the safety matters.

10. Three outside experts had been appointed to conduct third round of safety audit to examine all aspects of safety including existing provisions and recommend precautions and has submitted their reports, which have been circulated to all collieries and areas for implementation.

11. Maintaining properly equipped and trained rescue services. Formulation of emergency plan with mock rehearsal of the same.

12. Safety First Report of all mines are examined every month and suitable measures are taken to ensure safety.